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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March 2015
Agenda item 7 (b)
Credentials of representatives to the Conference

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chair: Mr. Shameem **Ahsan** (Bangladesh)

1. Rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction provides that:

> A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-ninth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

2. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 14 March 2015, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee having the same composition as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-ninth session, namely, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Denmark, Jamaica, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Senegal and the United States of America.

3. The Credentials Committee held one meeting on 17 March 2015.

4. The Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Shameem Ahsan, was unanimously elected Chair.

5. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the secretariat of the Conference dated 16 March 2015 on the credentials of representatives of States and of the European Union participating in the Conference. A representative of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat provided an oral update to the memorandum, indicating credentials and communications received subsequent to its preparation.

6. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and in the oral statement of the representative of the Office of Legal Affairs, formal credentials of representatives to the Conference, in the form required in rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the

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Conference, had been received as at the time of the meeting of the Committee from the following 59 States: Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Vanuatu, Zimbabwe and Holy See.

7. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and in the oral statement, information concerning the appointment of representatives of States and of the European Union to the Conference had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as at the time of the meeting of the Committee, by means of a facsimile communication from the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the mission concerned, by the European Union and the following 128 States: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and State of Palestine.

8. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the memorandum and in the oral statement, the following 10 States invited to participate in the Conference had not, as at the time of the meeting of the Committee, communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations any information regarding their representatives to the Conference: Andorra, Belize, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Niue, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Somalia and Suriname.

9. The Committee decided to accept the credentials of the representatives of all States and of the European Union listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the memorandum and in the oral statement, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 7 of the present report would be communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as soon as possible.

10. The Committee adopted the following draft resolution without a vote:

The Credentials Committee,

Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the States and of the European Union referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the memorandum of the secretariat.

11. The Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 13).

12. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the Conference.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

13. The Committee recommends to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March 2015
Agenda item 11
Adoption of the final outcomes of the Conference

Statement in explanation of position by the representative of the United States of America on the outcome document of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction*

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Government of Japan for hosting this conference and wish to thank them for their leadership in the global effort to address disaster risk reduction. We would also note that we have been both heartened and impressed by the innovation and dedication shown by the participants convened here in Sendai.

The United States of America has been a strong supporter of the Hyogo Framework for Action to reduce loss of lives and social and economic impacts of disasters, including through assistance. For example, the United States Agency for International Development alone has provided nearly $1.2 billion to support disaster risk reduction in 91 countries over the past decade.

As we consider the Sendai Framework, we underscore the core principle of disaster risk reduction, that each State has the primary responsibility for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets.

Given the urgency of addressing disaster risk challenges faced by all nations, we remain deeply concerned about those elements in the current framework that distract from our collective efforts to address this crucial issue. We are therefore compelled to make the following statement:

We understand the "right to development" does not have an agreed international meaning and that work is needed to make it consistent with human

* The statement was delivered at the second meeting of the Main Committee of the Conference on 18 March 2015.

rights, which the international community recognizes as universal rights held and enjoyed by individuals, and which every individual may demand from his or her own government.

In addition, the United States explicitly dissociates from consensus on the following issues:

Concerning the transfer of technology, the United States supports a broad range of initiatives and mechanisms that provide technical assistance, including through the transfer of technology, to developing countries. However, we maintain that the transfer of technology must not be coerced and that the rights of private holders of intellectual property must not be abrogated, and we reject any suggestion that the present framework changes the obligations of countries under national law and relevant international agreements. We do not agree that the language on technology transfer in this framework can serve as a precedent for future negotiated documents, including any documents relating to the sustainable development goals or the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or any other negotiation in or outside of the United Nations system.

In considering international cooperation, the United States is pleased to see the cooperative nature of the outcome and interprets "international cooperation" to include cooperation between all countries, including between developing countries, and from a variety of public and private sources. The United States will continue to prioritize aid and assistance to those countries in need of such assistance, in order to complement their national efforts to address disaster risk reduction. However, the United States does not accept any interpretation of the present framework that would mandate quantitative targets for country-specific aid or other assistance or create new obligations to provide assistance in support of climate finance or for any other purpose, or that would otherwise prejudge or prejudice ongoing negotiations in other forums, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Finally, we do not accept any reference to the coordination of international bodies that fails to acknowledge their respective authorities and competencies, and we dissociate from any reference to processes or relationships that disenfranchise the private sector, a vital partner in our endeavours.

Despite these reservations, we wish to emphasize that we are committed to working with partners at all levels to strengthen the capacity of individuals, communities, households and countries to enhance early warning, improve preparedness and mitigate the impacts of disasters.

A/CONF.224/6

Report of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Sendai, Japan
14-18 March 2015

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

[13 April 2015]

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Chapter I
Resolutions adopted by the Conference

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Conference adopted the following draft resolutions:

Resolution 1
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

I. Preamble

1. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan, which represented a unique opportunity for countries to:

(a) Adopt a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(b) Complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;[1]

(c) Consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations, as well as relevant regional agreements for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(d) Identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(e) Determine modalities for the periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

2. During the World Conference, States also reiterated their commitment to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience[2] to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider both within relevant frameworks.

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[1] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

[2] Resilience is defined as: "The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions", United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction", Geneva, May 2009 (http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology).

Hyogo Framework for Action: lessons learned, gaps identified and future challenges

3. Since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005, as documented in national and regional progress reports on its implementation as well as in other global reports, progress has been achieved in reducing disaster risk at local, national, regional and global levels by countries and other relevant stakeholders, leading to a decrease in mortality in the case of some hazards.[3] Reducing disaster risk is a cost-effective investment in preventing future losses. Effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development. Countries have enhanced their capacities in disaster risk management. International mechanisms for strategic advice, coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, as well as other relevant international and regional forums for cooperation, have been instrumental in the development of policies and strategies and the advancement of knowledge and mutual learning. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has been an important instrument for raising public and institutional awareness, generating political commitment and focusing and catalysing actions by a wide range of stakeholders at all levels.

4. Over the same 10-year time frame, however, disasters have continued to exact a heavy toll, and as a result the well-being and safety of persons, communities and countries as a whole have been affected. Over 700 thousand people have lost their lives, over 1.4 million have been injured and approximately 23 million made homeless as a result of disasters. Overall, more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters in various ways, with women, children and people in vulnerable situations disproportionately affected. The total economic loss was more than $1.3 trillion. In addition, between 2008 and 2012, 144 million people were displaced by disasters. Disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development. Evidence indicates that exposure of persons and assets in all countries has increased faster than vulnerability[4] has decreased, thus generating new risks and a steady rise in disaster-related losses, with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact in the short, medium and long term, especially at the local and community levels. Recurring small-scale disasters and slow-onset disasters particularly affect communities, households and small and medium-sized enterprises, constituting a high percentage of all losses. All countries — especially developing countries, where the mortality and economic losses from disasters are disproportionately higher — are faced with increasing levels of possible hidden costs and challenges in order to meet financial and other obligations.

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[3] Hazard is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: "A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydrometeorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards).

[4] Vulnerability is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: "The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards".

5. It is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk in order to more effectively protect persons, communities and countries, their livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets and ecosystems, and thus strengthen their resilience.

6. Enhanced work to reduce exposure and vulnerability, thus preventing the creation of new disaster risks, and accountability for disaster risk creation are needed at all levels. More dedicated action needs to be focused on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management and compounding factors such as demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, non-risk-informed policies, lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment, complex supply chains, limited availability of technology, unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems, pandemics and epidemics. Moreover, it is necessary to continue strengthening good governance in disaster risk reduction strategies at the national, regional and global levels and improving preparedness and national coordination for disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and to use post-disaster recovery and reconstruction to "Build Back Better", supported by strengthened modalities of international cooperation.

7. There has to be a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk. Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. There is a need for the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, as well as academia and scientific and research institutions, to work more closely together and to create opportunities for collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices.

8. International, regional, subregional and transboundary cooperation remains pivotal in supporting the efforts of States, their national and local authorities, as well as communities and businesses, to reduce disaster risk. Existing mechanisms may require strengthening in order to provide effective support and achieve better implementation. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, need special attention and support to augment domestic resources and capabilities through bilateral and multilateral channels in order to ensure adequate, sustainable, and timely means of implementation in capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with international commitments.

9. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has provided critical guidance in efforts to reduce disaster risk and has contributed to the progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Its implementation has, however, highlighted a number of gaps in addressing the underlying disaster risk

factors, in the formulation of goals and priorities for action,[5] in the need to foster disaster resilience at all levels and in ensuring adequate means of implementation. The gaps indicate a need to develop an action-oriented framework that Governments and relevant stakeholders can implement in a supportive and complementary manner, and which helps to identify disaster risks to be managed and guides investment to improve resilience.

10. Ten years after the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, disasters continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development.

11. The intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction provide the international community with a unique opportunity to enhance coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurement systems for implementation, while respecting the respective mandates. Ensuring credible links, as appropriate, between these processes will contribute to building resilience and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty.

12. It is recalled that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, "The future we want",[6] called for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and, as appropriate, to be integrated at all levels. The Conference also reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.[7]

13. Addressing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, while respecting the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[8] represents an opportunity to reduce disaster risk in a meaningful and coherent manner throughout the interrelated intergovernmental processes.

14. Against this background, and in order to reduce disaster risk, there is a need to address existing challenges and prepare for future ones by focusing on: monitoring, assessing and understanding disaster risk and sharing such information and how it is created; strengthening disaster risk governance and coordination across relevant institutions and sectors and the full and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders at appropriate levels; investing in the economic, social, health, cultural and educational resilience of persons, communities and countries and the environment, as well as through technology and research; enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and

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[5] The Hyogo Framework priorities for action 2005-2015 are: (1) ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; (2) identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; (3) use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; (4) reduce the underlying risk factors; and (5) strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

[6] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[8] The climate change issues mentioned in this Framework remain within the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change under the competences of the Parties to the Convention.

reconstruction. To complement national action and capacity, there is a need to enhance international cooperation between developed and developing countries and between States and international organizations.

15. This Framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

II. Expected outcome and goal

16. While some progress in building resilience and reducing losses and damages has been achieved, a substantial reduction of disaster risk requires perseverance and persistence, with a more explicit focus on people and their health and livelihoods, and regular follow-up. Building on the Hyogo Framework for Action, this Framework aims to achieve the following outcome over the next 15 years:

> The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries

The realization of this outcome requires the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every country at all levels in the implementation and follow-up of this Framework and in the creation of the necessary conducive and enabling environment.

17. To attain the expected outcome, the following goal must be pursued:

> Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience

The pursuance of this goal requires the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation for the provision of means of implementation in accordance with their national priorities.

18. To support the assessment of global progress in achieving the outcome and goal of this Framework, seven global targets have been agreed. These targets will be measured at the global level and will be complemented by work to develop appropriate indicators. National targets and indicators will contribute to the achievement of the outcome and goal of this Framework. The seven global targets are:

(a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;

(b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;[9]

(c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;

(d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;

(e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

(f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030;

(g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

III. Guiding principles

19. Drawing from the principles contained in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action[10] and the Hyogo Framework for Action, the implementation of this Framework will be guided by the following principles, while taking into account national circumstances, and consistent with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments:

(a) Each State has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation. The reduction of disaster risk is a common concern for all States and the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;

(b) Disaster risk reduction requires that responsibilities be shared by central Governments and relevant national authorities, sectors and stakeholders, as appropriate to their national circumstances and systems of governance;

(c) Managing the risk of disasters is aimed at protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods and productive assets, as well as cultural and environmental assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development;

(d) Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and

[9] Categories of affected people will be elaborated in the process for post-Sendai work decided by the Conference.

[10] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens;

(e) Disaster risk reduction and management depends on coordination mechanisms within and across sectors and with relevant stakeholders at all levels, and it requires the full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels and a clear articulation of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders, including business and academia, to ensure mutual outreach, partnership, complementarity in roles and accountability and follow-up;

(f) While the enabling, guiding and coordinating role of national and federal State Governments remain essential, it is necessary to empower local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities, as appropriate;

(g) Disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge;

(h) The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence, as appropriate, across sustainable development and growth, food security, health and safety, climate change and variability, environmental management and disaster risk reduction agendas. Disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development;

(i) While the drivers of disaster risk may be local, national, regional or global in scope, disaster risks have local and specific characteristics that must be understood for the determination of measures to reduce disaster risk;

(j) Addressing underlying disaster risk factors through disaster risk-informed public and private investments is more cost-effective than primary reliance on post-disaster response and recovery, and contributes to sustainable development;

(k) In the post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase it is critical to prevent the creation of and to reduce disaster risk by "Building Back Better" and increasing public education and awareness of disaster risk;

(l) An effective and meaningful global partnership and the further strengthening of international cooperation, including the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries, are essential for effective disaster risk management;

(m) Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income and other countries facing specific disaster risk challenges, need adequate, sustainable and timely provision of support, including through finance, technology transfer and capacity-building from developed countries and partners tailored to their needs and priorities, as identified by them.

IV. Priorities for action

20. Taking into account the experience gained through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and in pursuance of the expected outcome and goal, there is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas:

1. Understanding disaster risk.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

21. In their approach to disaster risk reduction, States, regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders should take into consideration the key activities listed under each of these four priorities and should implement them, as appropriate, taking into consideration respective capacities and capabilities, in line with national laws and regulations.

22. In the context of increasing global interdependence, concerted international cooperation, an enabling international environment and means of implementation are needed to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation for disaster risk reduction at all levels, in particular for developing countries.

Priority 1. Understanding disaster risk

23. Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters.

National and local levels

24. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Promote the collection, analysis, management and use of relevant data and practical information. Ensure its dissemination, taking into account the needs of different categories of users, as appropriate;

(b) Encourage the use of and strengthening of baselines and periodically assess disaster risks, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible sequential effects at the relevant social and spatial scale on ecosystems, in line with national circumstances;

(c) Develop, periodically update and disseminate, as appropriate, location-based disaster risk information, including risk maps, to decision makers, the general public and communities at risk of exposure to disaster in an appropriate format by using, as applicable, geospatial information technology;

(d) Systematically evaluate, record, share and publicly account for disaster losses and understand the economic, social, health, education, environmental and cultural heritage impacts, as appropriate, in the context of event-specific hazard-exposure and vulnerability information;

(e) Make non-sensitive hazard exposure, vulnerability, risk, disaster and loss-disaggregated information freely available and accessible, as appropriate;

(f) Promote real-time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;

(g) Build the knowledge of government officials at all levels, civil society, communities and volunteers, as well as the private sector, through sharing experiences, lessons learned, good practices and training and education on disaster risk reduction, including the use of existing training and education mechanisms and peer learning;

(h) Promote and improve dialogue and cooperation among scientific and technological communities, other relevant stakeholders and policymakers in order to facilitate a science-policy interface for effective decision-making in disaster risk management;

(i) Ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sectoral approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context;

(j) Strengthen technical and scientific capacity to capitalize on and consolidate existing knowledge and to develop and apply methodologies and models to assess disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposure to all hazards;

(k) Promote investments in innovation and technology development in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research in disaster risk management to address gaps, obstacles, interdependencies and social, economic, educational and environmental challenges and disaster risks;

(l) Promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training;

(m) Promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;

(n) Apply risk information in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity and exposure of persons, communities, countries and assets, as well as hazard characteristics, to develop and implement disaster risk reduction policies;

(o) Enhance collaboration among people at the local level to disseminate disaster risk information through the involvement of community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Global and regional levels

25. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Enhance the development and dissemination of science-based methodologies and tools to record and share disaster losses and relevant disaggregated data and statistics, as well as to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems;

(b) Promote the conduct of comprehensive surveys on multi-hazard disaster risks and the development of regional disaster risk assessments and maps, including climate change scenarios;

(c) Promote and enhance, through international cooperation, including technology transfer, access to and the sharing and use of non-sensitive data and information, as appropriate, communications and geospatial and space-based technologies and related services; maintain and strengthen in situ and remotely-sensed earth and climate observations; and strengthen the utilization of media, including social media, traditional media, big data and mobile phone networks, to support national measures for successful disaster risk communication, as appropriate and in accordance with national laws;

(d) Promote common efforts in partnership with the scientific and technological community, academia and the private sector to establish, disseminate and share good practices internationally;

(e) Support the development of local, national, regional and global user-friendly systems and services for the exchange of information on good practices, cost-effective and easy-to-use disaster risk reduction technologies and lessons learned on policies, plans and measures for disaster risk reduction;

(f) Develop effective global and regional campaigns as instruments for public awareness and education, building on the existing ones (for example, the "One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals" initiative, the "Making Cities Resilient: my city is getting ready!" campaign, the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction and the annual United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction), to promote a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible citizenship, generate understanding of disaster risk, support mutual learning and share experiences; and encourage public and private stakeholders to actively engage in such initiatives and to develop new ones at the local, national, regional and global levels;

(g) Enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and in all regions, with the support of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, in order to: strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of this Framework; promote scientific research on disaster risk patterns, causes and effects; disseminate risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology; provide guidance on methodologies and standards for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data; identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in disaster risk reduction; promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making; contribute to the update of the publication "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction"; use post-

disaster reviews as opportunities to enhance learning and public policy; and disseminate studies;

(h) Encourage the availability of copyrighted and patented materials, including through negotiated concessions, as appropriate;

(i) Enhance access to and support for innovation and technology, as well as in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research and development in the field of disaster risk management.

Priority 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

26. Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors, as well as participation of relevant stakeholders, are needed. Strengthening disaster risk governance for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation is therefore necessary and fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

National and local levels

27. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote the coherence and further development, as appropriate, of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies, which, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide the public and private sectors in: (i) addressing disaster risk in publically owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructures; (ii) promoting and providing incentives, as relevant, for actions by persons, households, communities and businesses; (iii) enhancing relevant mechanisms and initiatives for disaster risk transparency, which may include financial incentives, public awareness-raising and training initiatives, reporting requirements and legal and administrative measures; and (iv) putting in place coordination and organizational structures;

(b) Adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales, with targets, indicators and time frames, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience;

(c) Carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;

(d) Encourage the establishment of necessary mechanisms and incentives to ensure high levels of compliance with the existing safety-enhancing provisions of sectoral laws and regulations, including those addressing land use and urban planning, building codes, environmental and resource management and health and safety standards, and update them, where needed, to ensure an adequate focus on disaster risk management;

(e) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to follow up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress on national and local plans. Promote public scrutiny and encourage institutional debates, including by parliamentarians and other relevant officials, on progress reports of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction;

(f) Assign, as appropriate, clear roles and tasks to community representatives within disaster risk management institutions and processes and decision-making through relevant legal frameworks and undertake comprehensive public and community consultations during the development of such laws and regulations to support their implementation;

(g) Establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is necessary for such mechanisms to have a strong foundation in national institutional frameworks with clearly assigned responsibilities and authority to, inter alia, identify sectoral and multisectoral disaster risk, build awareness and knowledge of disaster risk through sharing and dissemination of non-sensitive disaster risk information and data, contribute to and coordinate reports on local and national disaster risk, coordinate public awareness campaigns on disaster risk, facilitate and support local multisectoral cooperation (e.g. among local governments) and contribute to the determination of and reporting on national and local disaster risk management plans and all policies relevant for disaster risk management. These responsibilities should be established through laws, regulations, standards and procedures;

(h) Empower local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with civil society, communities and indigenous peoples and migrants in disaster risk management at the local level;

(i) Encourage parliamentarians to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations;

(j) Promote the development of quality standards, such as certifications and awards for disaster risk management, with the participation of the private sector, civil society, professional associations, scientific organizations and the United Nations;

(k) Formulate public policies, where applicable, aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation, where possible, of human settlements in disaster-risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.

Global and regional levels

28. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Guide action at the regional level through agreed regional and subregional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation for disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, in the light of this Framework, in order to foster more efficient planning, create common information systems and exchange good practices and programmes for cooperation and capacity development, in particular to address common and transboundary disaster risks;

(b) Foster collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate;

(c) Actively engage in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues, as appropriate, as well as to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors. Regional intergovernmental organizations should play an important role in the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction;

(d) Promote transboundary cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches with regard to shared resources, such as within river basins and along coastlines, to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including epidemic and displacement risk;

(e) Promote mutual learning and exchange of good practices and information through, inter alia, voluntary and self-initiated peer reviews among interested States;

(f) Promote the strengthening of, as appropriate, international voluntary mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of disaster risks, including relevant data and information, benefiting from the experience of the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor. Such mechanisms may promote the exchange of non-sensitive information on disaster risks to the relevant national Government bodies and stakeholders in the interest of sustainable social and economic development.

Priority 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

29. Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.

National and local levels

30. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Allocate the necessary resources, including finance and logistics, as appropriate, at all levels of administration for the development and the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, laws and regulations in all relevant sectors;

(b) Promote mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment in order to reduce the financial impact of disasters on governments and societies, in urban and rural areas;

(c) Strengthen, as appropriate, disaster resilient public and private investments, particularly through: structural, non-structural and functional disaster risk prevention and reduction measures in critical facilities, in particular schools and hospitals and physical infrastructures; building better from the start to withstand hazards through proper design and construction, including the use of the principles of universal design and the standardization of building materials; retrofitting and rebuilding; nurturing a culture of maintenance; and taking into account economic, social, structural, technological and environmental impact assessments;

(d) Protect or support the protection of cultural and collecting institutions and other sites of historical, cultural heritage and religious interest;

(e) Promote the disaster risk resilience of workplaces through structural and non-structural measures;

(f) Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments and informal and non-permanent housing, and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed by anticipated demographic and environmental changes;

(g) Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help reduce risks;

(h) Encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes and standards and rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, with the aim of making them more applicable within the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, survey and enforce such codes through an appropriate approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures;

(i) Enhance the resilience of national health systems, including by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary and tertiary health care, especially at the local level; developing the capacity of health workers in understanding disaster risk and applying and implementing disaster risk reduction approaches in health work; promoting and enhancing the training capacities in the field of disaster medicine; and supporting and training community health groups in disaster risk reduction approaches in health programmes, in collaboration with other sectors, as well as in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization;

(j) Strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;

(k) People with life threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;

(l) Encourage the adoption of policies and programmes addressing disaster-induced human mobility to strengthen the resilience of affected people and that of host communities, in accordance with national laws and circumstances;

(m) Promote, as appropriate, the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations and measures in financial and fiscal instruments;

(n) Strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;

(o) Increase business resilience and protection of livelihoods and productive assets throughout the supply chains, ensure continuity of services and integrate disaster risk management into business models and practices;

(p) Strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(q) Promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.

Global and regional levels

31. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Promote coherence across systems, sectors and organizations related to sustainable development and to disaster risk reduction in their policies, plans, programmes and processes;

(b) Promote the development and strengthening of disaster risk transfer and sharing mechanisms and instruments in close cooperation with partners in the international community, business, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders;

(c) Promote cooperation between academic, scientific and research entities and networks and the private sector to develop new products and services to help reduce disaster risk, in particular those that would assist developing countries and their specific challenges;

(d) Encourage the coordination between global and regional financial institutions with a view to assessing and anticipating the potential economic and social impacts of disasters;

(e) Enhance cooperation between health authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen country capacity for disaster risk management for health, the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the building of resilient health systems;

(f) Strengthen and promote collaboration and capacity-building for the protection of productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(g) Promote and support the development of social safety nets as disaster risk reduction measures linked to and integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes in order to ensure resilience to shocks at the household and community levels;

(h) Strengthen and broaden international efforts aimed at eradicating hunger and poverty through disaster risk reduction;

(i) Promote and support collaboration among relevant public and private stakeholders to enhance the resilience of business to disasters.

Priority 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

32. The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increase of people and assets exposure, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, indicates the need to further strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches are key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to "Build Back Better", including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters.

National and local levels

33. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Prepare or review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes with the involvement of the relevant institutions, considering climate change scenarios and their impact on disaster risk, and facilitating, as appropriate, the participation of all sectors and relevant stakeholders;

(b) Invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multisectoral forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems. Develop such systems through a participatory process. Tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender. Promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;

(c) Promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide live-saving and essential services;

(d) Establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;

(e) Adopt public policies and actions that support the role of public service workers to establish or strengthen coordination and funding mechanisms and procedures for relief assistance and plan and prepare for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction;

(f) Train the existing workforce and voluntary workers in disaster response and strengthen technical and logistical capacities to ensure better response in emergencies;

(g) Ensure the continuity of operations and planning, including social and economic recovery, and the provision of basic services in the post-disaster phase;

(h) Promote regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, including evacuation drills, training and the establishment of area-based support systems, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to safe shelter, essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs;

(i) Promote the cooperation of diverse institutions, multiple authorities and related stakeholders at all levels, including affected communities and business, in view of the complex and costly nature of post-disaster reconstruction, under the coordination of national authorities;

(j) Promote the incorporation of disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, facilitate the link between relief, rehabilitation and development, use opportunities during the recovery phase to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the short, medium and long term, including through the development of measures such as land use planning, structural standards improvement and the sharing of expertise, knowledge, post-disaster reviews and lessons learned and integrate post-disaster reconstruction into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas. This should also apply to temporary settlements for persons displaced by disasters;

(k) Develop guidance for preparedness for disaster reconstruction, such as on land use planning and structural standards improvement, including by learning from the recovery and reconstruction programmes over the decade since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and exchanging experiences, knowledge and lessons learned;

(l) Consider the relocation of public facilities and infrastructures to areas outside the risk range, wherever possible, in the post-disaster reconstruction process, in consultation with the people concerned, as appropriate;

(m) Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to evacuate persons living in disaster-prone areas;

(n) Establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;

(o) Enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;

(p) Review and strengthen, as appropriate, national laws and procedures on international cooperation, based on the guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance.

Global and regional levels

34. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, coordinated regional approaches and operational mechanisms to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities;

(b) Promote the further development and dissemination of instruments, such as standards, codes, operational guides and other guidance instruments, to support coordinated action in disaster preparedness and response and facilitate information sharing on lessons learned and best practices for policy practice and post-disaster reconstruction programmes;

(c) Promote the further development of and investment in effective, nationally-compatible, regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms, where relevant, in line with the Global Framework for Climate Services, and facilitate the sharing and exchange of information across all countries;

(d) Enhance international mechanisms, such as the International Recovery Platform, for the sharing of experience and learning among countries and all relevant stakeholders;

(e) Support, as appropriate, the efforts of relevant United Nations entities to strengthen and implement global mechanisms on hydrometeorological issues in order to raise awareness and improve understanding of water-related disaster risks and their impact on society, and advance strategies for disaster risk reduction upon the request of States;

(f) Support regional cooperation to deal with disaster preparedness, including through common exercises and drills;

(g) Promote regional protocols to facilitate the sharing of response capacities and resources during and after disasters;

(h) Train the existing workforce and volunteers in disaster response.

V. Role of stakeholders

35. While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of this Framework at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required.

36. When determining specific roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, and at the same time building on existing relevant international instruments, States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders:

(a) Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations to: participate, in collaboration with public institutions, to, inter alia, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups, as appropriate. On this point, it should be noted that:

(i) Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as to build their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations;

(ii) Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula;

(iii) Persons with disabilities and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design;

(iv) Older persons have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom, which are invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk, and they should be included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(v) Indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(vi) Migrants contribute to the resilience of communities and societies and their knowledge, skills and capacities can be useful in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction;

(b) Academia, scientific and research entities and networks to: focus on the disaster risk factors and scenarios, including emerging disaster risks, in the medium and long term; increase research for regional, national and local application; support action by local communities and authorities; and support the interface between policy and science for decision-making;

(c) Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to: integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation, as well as technological development for disaster risk management; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive data; and actively participate, as appropriate and under the guidance of the

public sector, in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management;

(d) Media to: take an active and inclusive role at the local, national, regional and global levels in contributing to the raising of public awareness and understanding and disseminate accurate and non-sensitive disaster risk, hazard and disaster information, including on small-scale disasters, in a simple, transparent, easy-to-understand and accessible manner, in close cooperation with national authorities; adopt specific disaster risk reduction communications policies; support, as appropriate, early warning systems and life-saving protective measures; and stimulate a culture of prevention and strong community involvement in sustained public education campaigns and public consultations at all levels of society, in accordance with national practices.

37. With reference to the General Assembly resolution 68/211 of 20 December 2013, commitments by relevant stakeholders are important in order to identify modalities of cooperation and to implement this Framework. Those commitments should be specific and time-bound in order to support the development of partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels and the implementation of local and national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. All stakeholders are encouraged to publicize their commitments and their fulfilment in support of the implementation of this Framework, or of the national and local disaster risk management plans, through the website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

VI. International cooperation and global partnership

General considerations

38. Given their different capacities, as well as the linkage between the level of support provided to them and the extent to which they will be able to implement this Framework, developing countries require an enhanced provision of means of implementation, including adequate, sustainable and timely resources, through international cooperation and global partnerships for development, and continued international support, so as to strengthen their efforts to reduce disaster risk.

39. International cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk.

40. In addressing economic disparity and disparity in technological innovation and research capacity among countries, it is crucial to enhance technology transfer, involving a process of enabling and facilitating flows of skill, knowledge, ideas, know-how and technology from developed to developing countries in the implementation of this Framework.

41. Disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. Such vulnerability requires the urgent strengthening of international cooperation and ensuring genuine and durable partnerships at the regional and international levels in

order to support developing countries to implement this Framework, in accordance with their national priorities and needs. Similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines.

42. Disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States, owing to their unique and particular vulnerabilities. The effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and have been exacerbated by climate change, impede their progress towards sustainable development. Given the special case of small island developing States, there is a critical need to build resilience and to provide particular support through the implementation of the outcome of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[11] in the area of disaster risk reduction.

43. African countries continue to face challenges related to disasters and increasing risks, including those related to enhancing resilience of infrastructure, health and livelihoods. These challenges require increased international cooperation and the provision of adequate support to African countries to allow for the implementation of this Framework.

44. North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, has proven to be key to reducing disaster risk and there is a need to further strengthen cooperation in both areas. Partnerships play an additional important role by harnessing the full potential of countries and supporting their national capacities in disaster risk management and in improving the social, health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and countries.

45. Efforts by developing countries offering South-South and triangular cooperation should not reduce North-South cooperation from developed countries as they complement North-South cooperation.

46. Financing from a variety of international sources, public and private transfer of reliable, affordable, appropriate and modern environmentally sound technology, on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, capacity-building assistance for developing countries and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of reducing disaster risk.

Means of implementation

47. To achieve this, it is necessary to:

(a) Reaffirm that developing countries need enhanced provision of coordinated, sustained, and adequate international support for disaster risk reduction, in particular for the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through enhanced technical and financial support and technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for the development and strengthening of their capacities;

(b) Enhance access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, environmentally sound technology, science and inclusive innovation, as well as knowledge and information-sharing through existing mechanisms, namely bilateral,

[11] General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

regional and multilateral collaborative arrangements, including the United Nations and other relevant bodies;

(c) Promote the use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, such as global technology pools and global systems to share know-how, innovation and research and ensure access to technology and information on disaster risk reduction;

(d) Incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes within and across all sectors, as appropriate, related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change.

Support from international organizations

48. To support the implementation of this Framework, the following is necessary:

(a) The United Nations and other international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions and donor agencies engaged in disaster risk reduction are requested, as appropriate, to enhance the coordination of their strategies in this regard;

(b) The entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, through the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programmes, to promote the optimum use of resources and to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of this Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks, such as the International Health Regulations (2005), including through the development and the strengthening of capacities and clear and focused programmes that support the priorities of States in a balanced, well-coordinated and sustainable manner, within their respective mandates;

(c) The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in particular, is requested to support the implementation, follow-up and review of this Framework by: preparing periodic reviews on progress, in particular for the Global Platform, and, as appropriate, in a timely manner, along with the follow-up process at the United Nations, supporting the development of coherent global and regional follow-up and indicators, and in coordination, as appropriate, with other relevant mechanisms for sustainable development and climate change, and updating the existing web-based Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor accordingly; participating actively in the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators; generating evidence-based and practical guidance for implementation in close collaboration with States and through the mobilization of experts; reinforcing a culture of prevention among relevant stakeholders through supporting development of standards by experts and technical organizations, advocacy initiatives and dissemination of disaster risk information, policies and practices, as well as by providing education and training on disaster risk reduction through affiliated organizations; supporting countries, including through national platforms or their equivalent, in their development of national plans and monitoring trends and patterns in disaster risk, loss and impacts; convening the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and supporting the organization of regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in cooperation with regional organizations; leading the revision of the United Nations Plan of Action on

Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; facilitating the enhancement of, and continuing to service, the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group in mobilizing science and technical work on disaster risk reduction; leading, in close coordination with States, the update of the publication "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction", in line with the terminology agreed upon by States; and maintaining the stakeholders' commitment registry;

(d) International financial institutions, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, to consider the priorities of this Framework for providing financial support and loans for integrated disaster risk reduction to developing countries;

(e) Other international organizations and treaty bodies, including the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, international financial institutions at the global and regional levels and the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of this Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks;

(f) The United Nations Global Compact, as the main United Nations initiative for engagement with the private sector and business, to further engage with and promote the critical importance of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development and resilience;

(g) The overall capacity of the United Nations system to assist developing countries in disaster risk reduction to be strengthened by providing adequate resources through various funding mechanisms, including increased, timely, stable and predictable contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction and by enhancing the role of the Fund in relation to the implementation of this Framework;

(h) The Inter-Parliamentary Union and other relevant regional bodies and mechanisms for parliamentarians, as appropriate, to continue supporting and advocating disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of national legal frameworks;

(i) The United Cities and Local Governments organization and other relevant bodies of local governments to continue supporting cooperation and mutual learning among local governments for disaster risk reduction and the implementation of this Framework.

Follow-up actions

49. The Conference invites the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, to consider the possibility of including the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as part of its integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor system.

50. The Conference recommends to the General Assembly the establishment, at its sixty-ninth session, of an open-ended intergovernmental working group, comprising experts nominated by Member States, and supported by the United Nations Office

for Disaster Risk Reduction, with involvement of relevant stakeholders, for the development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of this Framework in conjunction with the work of the inter-agency expert group on sustainable development indicators. The Conference also recommends that the working group consider the recommendations of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on the update of the publication "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction" by December 2016, and that the outcome of its work be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration and adoption.

Resolution 2
Sendai Declaration

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, ministers and delegates participating in the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, have gathered from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai City of Miyagi Prefecture in Japan, which has demonstrated a vibrant recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. Recognizing the increasing impact of disasters and their complexity in many parts of the world, we declare our determination to enhance our efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction to reduce losses of lives and assets from disasters worldwide.

2. We value the important role played by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters during the past 10 years. Having completed the assessment and review thereof and considered the experience gained under its implementation, we hereby adopt the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. We are strongly committed to the implementation of the new framework as the guide to enhance our efforts for the future.

3. We call all stakeholders to action, aware that the realization of the new framework depends on our unceasing and tireless collective efforts to make the world safer from the risk of disasters in the decades to come for the benefit of present and future generations.

4. We thank the people and the Government of Japan as well as the City of Sendai for hosting the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and extend our appreciation to Japan for its commitment to advancing disaster risk reduction in the global development agenda.

Resolution 3
Stakeholders' voluntary commitments

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

1. *Welcomes* the stakeholders' expression of voluntary commitments to reduce the risk of disaster;

2. *Invites* further expressions of voluntary commitments and the creation of partnerships to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Resolution 4
Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Japan

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Having met in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, at the invitation of the Government of Japan,

1. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to Her Excellency Eriko Yamatani, Minister of State for Disaster Management of Japan, for her outstanding contribution, as President of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to the successful outcome of the Conference;

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government of Japan for having made it possible for the Conference to be held in Japan and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at its disposal;

3. *Requests* the Government of Japan to convey to the people of Japan and to the city of Sendai the gratitude of the Conference for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

Resolution 5
Credentials of representatives to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee[1] and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.[1]

[1] A/CONF.224/4.

Chapter II
Organization of work and other organizational matters

A. Date and venue of the Conference

2. The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/211 and decision 69/556. During that period, the Conference held nine plenary meetings, three high-level multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues and five ministerial round tables.

B. Attendance

3. The following 185 States were represented at the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Holy See, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The European Union was also represented at the Conference.

4. The following associate members of regional commissions were represented at the Conference: New Caledonia and Turks and Caicos Islands.

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the Conference: African Development Bank, African Union, Andean Development

Corporation, Asian Development Bank, Association of Caribbean States, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Caribbean Community, Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, Central American Integration System, Council of Europe, East African Community, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, Economic Cooperation Organization, European Union, Global Water Partnership, Group on Earth Observations, Indian Ocean Commission, Inter-American Development Bank, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Civil Defence Organization, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa, International Criminal Police Organization, International Hydrographic Organization, International Organization for Migration, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Islamic Development Bank, Latin American Parliament, League of Arab States, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Pacific Islands Forum, Southern African Development Community and Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

6. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the Conference: Food And Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Tourism Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Bank, World Health Organization and World Meteorological Organization.

7. The list of delegations in contained in document A/CONF.224/INF/4.

8. More than 2,000 representatives of major groups and other stakeholders actively participated in the Conference. In addition to contributing views through official statements in plenary meetings, representatives of major groups and other stakeholders shared views in all five ministerial round tables and actively engaged in the three high-level multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference accredited relevant organizations (see A/CONF.224/PC(I)/13, A/CONF.224/PC(II)/3, A/CONF.224/PC(II)/3/Add.1 and A/CONF.224/PC(III)/2).

C. Opening of the Conference

9. The Conference was opened on 14 March 2015 by the Secretary-General.

10. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 14 March 2015, after the election of the President of the Conference, statements were made by the President, Eriko Yamatani; the Secretary-General; the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe; the Head of State of Swaziland, King Mswati III, in his capacity as Vice-President of the General Assembly and on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, Sam Kutesa; the incoming President of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Laurent Fabius; Regina Pritchett, on behalf of the nine major groups; and the Mayor of Sendai, Emiko Okuyama.

D. Election of the President

11. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, on 14 March, the Minister of State for Disaster Management of Japan, Eriko Yamatani, was elected President of the Conference by acclamation.

E. Election of officers other than the President

12. At the same meeting, the Conference elected the following officers:

Vice-Presidents:
Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Jamaica, Russian Federation, South Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand

Vice-President ex officio:
Japan

Co-Chairs of the Main Committee:[1]
Päivi Kairamo (Finland)
Thani Thongphakdi (Thailand)

Rapporteur-General:
Toni Frisch (Switzerland)

F. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference adopted its agenda (A/CONF.224/1/Rev.1), which read:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
6. Election of officers other than the President.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General exchange of views.
9. Statements by intergovernmental and other organizations.
10. Statements by non-governmental organizations.
11. Adoption of the final outcomes of the Conference.

[1] At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference decided to interpret "Chair of the Main Committee", as set out in its rules of procedure (A/CONF.224/3), as co-Chairs.

12. Other matters.

13. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

14. At the same meeting, the Conference approved its programme of work, as contained in documents A/CONF.224/2 and Add.1.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Conference established a Main Committee, in accordance with rule 46 of the rules of procedure, and allocated the consideration of agenda item 11, "Adoption of the final outcomes of the Conference" to the Main Committee.

G. Adoption of the rules of procedure

16. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference adopted as its rules of procedure the provisional rules of procedure, as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (see A/CONF.224/3).

H. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

17. At the same meeting, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed the following States as members of the Credentials Committee, on the basis of the composition of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Denmark, Jamaica, Namibia, Russian Federation, Senegal and United States of America.

I. Documentation

18. The list of documents before the Conference is contained in the annex to the present report.

Chapter III
General exchange of views

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 14 March 2015, under agenda item 8, "General exchange of views", the Conference heard statements by the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe; the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov; the Head of State of Swaziland, King Mswati III; the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Emanuel Mori; the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta; the President of Vanuatu, Baldwin Lonsdale; and the President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe.

20. At its 2nd plenary meeting, also on 14 March, the Conference heard statements by the Vice-President of Viet Nam, Nguyen Thi Doan; the Vice-President of Indonesia, Muhammad Jusuf Kalla; the Vice-President of Ghana, Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur; the Vice-President of Burundi, Prosper Bazombanza; the Vice-President of South Sudan, James Wani Igga; the Vice-President of Zambia, Inonge Wina; the Prime Minister of Thailand, General Prayuth Chan-ocha; the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mizengo Pinda; the Prime Minister of Rwanda, Anastase Murekezi; the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, Numan Kurtulmus; the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin; European Commission Vice-President for Budget and Human Resources, Kristalina Georgieva; the Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga, Siaosi Sovaleni; the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, Ukhnaa Khurelsukh; the Deputy Prime Minister and Chair of the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Asang Laoly; the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of South Africa, Pravin Gordhan; the Minister Secretary for Risk Management of Ecuador, María del Pilar Cornejo; the Senior Minister and Vice-Chair of the National Committee for Disaster Management of Cambodia, Ly Thuch; the Minister for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Puchkov; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Didier Burkhalter; the Minister for Home Affairs of India, Rajnath Singh; the Minister of Civil Affairs of China, Li Liguo; the State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Peter Burian; and the Chair of the Committee on Emergency Situations of Tajikistan, Abdurakhimov Khairiddin.

21. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 March 2015, statements were made by the Minister of Public Order, Disaster Management and Christian Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka, John Amarathunga; the Minister for the Environment of the Czech Republic, Richard Brabec; the Minister of Disaster Management and Relief of Bangladesh, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury; the Minister of State for Development and Francophonie of France, Annick Girardin; the Minister of the Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli; the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization of Cameroon, René Emmanuel Sadi; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of Singapore, K. Shanmugam; the Minister for Justice of Australia, Michael Keenan; the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment of Samoa, Faamoetauloa Taito Faale Tumaalii; the Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Security of the Republic of Korea, Kim Gyejo; the Minister of National Emergencies of Paraguay, Joaquín Roa; the Minister of National Integration of Brazil, Gilberto Magalhães Occhi; the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal, Abdoulaye Balde; the

Minister of the Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates, Rashid Ahmed bin-Fahad; the Minister for Commerce, Industry and the Environment of Nauru, Aaron Cook; the Minister of the Interior and Decentralization of Madagascar, Mahafaly Solonandrasana Olivier Jocelyn; the Minister of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan, Kubatbek Boronov; the Minister of Local Government and Community Development of Jamaica, Noel Arscott; the Minister of the Interior of the Sudan, Ismat Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin Elhassan; the Minister for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements of Egypt, Laila Iskander; and the Minister of the Environment of Iraq, Qutaiba Ibrahim Turki.

22. At its 4th plenary meeting, also on 15 March, the Conference heard statements by the President, Head of Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kiribati, Anote Tong; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Malawi, George Thapatula Chaponda; the Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Seychelles, Didier Dogley; the Minister of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of Armenia, Armen Yeritsyan; the Minister of the Environment and Energy of Maldives, Thoriq Ibrahim; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Mahendra Bahadur Pandey; the Minister of Social Solidarity of Timor-Leste, Isabel Guterres Amaral; the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia, Nejib Derouiche; the Minister for Home Affairs of Cabo Verde, Marisa Morais; the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar, Myat Myat Ohn Khin; the Minister of Civil Defence of Cuba, Ramón Pardo Guerra; the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d'Ivoire, Rémi Allah-Kouadio; the Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden, Isabella Lövin; the Leader of the House, Minister of Defence, Minister of Canterbury Earthquake Recovery and Minister responsible for the Earthquake Commission of New Zealand, Gerard Brownlee; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Lapo Pistelli; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Edgardo Riveros Marín; the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Syed Tariq Fatemi; the State Minister and National Coordinator for Civil Protection of Mexico, Luis Felipe Puente; and by the Chairs of the delegations of the Philippines and Qatar.

23. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 16 March 2015, the Conference heard statements by the Minister of Internal Administration of Portugal, Anabela Rodrigues; the Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador; Lina Dolores Pohl; the Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, Damcho Dorji; the Minister of the Environment and Forest Resources of Togoc, André Johnson; the Minister of the Environment of Poland, Marciej Grabowski; the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, Vladimir Bozhko; the State Minister of Agriculture of Ethiopia, Mitiku Kassa; the Minister of State for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Desmond Swayne; the State Secretary at the Ministry of Defence of Slovenia, Miloš Bizjak; the Vice-Minister of State Administration and Public Service of Mozambique, Silva Roque Samuel; the Vice-Minister of Public Defence of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, René Oscar Cabrera Coca; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Hans Brattskar; the Vice-Minister for Home Affairs of Spain, Luis Aguilera; the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Interior of Romania, Raed Arafat; the State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, Thomas Silberhorn; the Vice-Minister and Head of the National Delegation for Major Risks of Algeria, Melizi Tahar; and by the Chairs

of the delegations of Hungary, Israel, the State of Palestine, the Dominican Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United States of America.

24. At its 6th plenary meeting, also on 16 March, the Conference heard statements by the Minister for Home Affairs of Luxembourg, Dan Kesch; the Minister of the Environment of Nigeria, Laurentina Mallam; the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of Solomon Islands, Samuel Manetoali; the Chairs of the delegations of Costa Rica, Peru, Lebanon, Guatemala, Tuvalu, Austria and Greece; the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Lilianne Ploumen; the Chairs of the delegations of Argentina, the Holy See and Morocco; and the Minister for Sustainable Development, Customary Affairs and Management of the Exclusive Economic Zone of New Caledonia (as an associate member), Anthony Lecren.

25. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 17 March 2015, the Conference heard statements by the Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management of Mauritius, Jayeshwar Raj Dayal; the Minister of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development of the Congo, Henri Djombo; the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, Water and Wildlife of the Gambia, Pa Ousman Jarju; the Minister-in-Assistance to the President of the Marshall Islands, Wilbur Heine; the Minister in charge of the Environment, Water and Forest of Guinea, Kadiatu N'Diaye; the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of Uganda, Hilary Obaloker Onek; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Fiji, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola; the First Deputy Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, Teimuraz Murgulia; the Chairs of the delegations of Nicaragua, Benin, Ireland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Papua New Guinea.

26. At its 8th plenary meeting, also on 17 March, the Conference heard statements by the Minister of Social Action and National Solidarity of Burkina Faso, Nicole Angeline Zan Yelemou; the Minister for Rural Development of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eugene Serufuli; the Vice-Minister of the Interior of Gabon, Guy Maixent Mamiaka; the Chairs of the delegations of Jordan, Canada, Belgium, Libya, Haiti, Finland, Afghanistan and Colombia; the Minister of Government of Panama, Milton Henriquez; and the Chairs of the delegations of Sierra Leone, Lesotho, the Cook Islands, Denmark, Uruguay, Barbados, Guyana and Palau.

Chapter IV
Statements by intergovernmental and other organizations

27. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 14 March, under agenda item 9, "Statements by intergovernmental and other organizations", a statement was made by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water.

28. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Office for Project Services, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Population Fund and by the Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Commission.

29. At the 4th plenary meeting, also on 15 March, statements were made by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union; the Director General of the International Organization for Migration; and the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

30. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 16 March, statements were made by the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and by a representative of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

31. At the 6th plenary meeting, also on 16 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Volunteers, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. A statement was also made by the Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

32. At the 7th plenary meeting, on 17 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Council of Europe, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Arab States, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Health Organization and the East African Community.

33. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 18 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations University and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe; the representatives of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Hydrographic Organization, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Group on Earth Observations, the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America, the Pacific Islands Forum and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Chapter V

Statements by non-governmental organizations

34. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 15 March, under agenda item 10, "Statements by non-governmental organizations", a statement was made by the representative of the women's major group.

35. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 16 March, statements were made by the representatives of the disability stakeholders' group, the scientific and technological community major group and the workers and trade unions major group.

36. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 17 March, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: non-governmental organizations; local authorities; business and industry; children and youth; farmers and small forest landowners; and indigenous peoples.

Chapter VI
Work of the Main Committee

37. During the course of the Conference, the Main Committee held two meetings and several informal consultations.

38. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 18 March, the Co-Chair of the Main Committee (Thailand) presented an oral report on the work of the Committee.

Chapter VII
Ministerial round tables

39. In accordance with paragraph 18 of the programme of work of the Conference (A/CONF.224/2), the following chairs' summaries are provided.[2]

A. Reconstruction after disasters: build back better

40. Round table 1, on the theme "Reconstruction after disasters: build back better" was opened on 15 March 2015 by the chair, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, Numan Kurtulmus. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia, Tonga, China, Madagascar, Malawi, the Czech Republic, Iceland, Australia, France, Kenya, Maldives, Pakistan, Paraguay, South Sudan, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Viet Nam, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Lebanon, the Philippines, Finland, Qatar, Serbia and Algeria, the World Bank Group and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the Japan NGO Centre for International Cooperation.

41. Participants highlighted the many challenges associated with the "build back better" approach, including poverty, growing urbanization, the lack of institutional mechanisms, the lack of predictable financing and the secondary hazards from industrial units. Participants agreed that for effective implementation of that approach there was a need to further develop and consolidate actions to build a strong basis so as to ensure recovery and reconstruction efforts address future disaster risks.

42. Participants raised the following measures in support of the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction:

(a) Promoting the institutionalization of post-disaster assessments and recovery planning to enhance risk governance, strengthen coordination among governments, civil society and other stakeholders, and increase the number of efficient and effective recovery and reconstruction programmes;

(b) Ensuring the involvement of all sectors in recovery and reconstruction planning, so as to ensure a multi-hazard and inclusive approach;

(c) Involving civil society and ensuring that recovery plans include not only structural aspects, but also non-structural aspects to help communities, especially as regards livelihoods and continuing economic development, and planning separately for complex disasters;

(d) Strengthening capacity for recovery planning and monitoring at the national, local and community levels and establishing clear roles and responsibilities for all actors, including national and local governments, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations;

(e) Building greater financial resilience and predictability within governments to manage and respond to disasters, and formalizing strategic and resource commitments towards recovery planning, implementation and performance management, including insurance;

[2] Please see para. 112 of the present report.

(f) Strengthening mechanisms for cooperation and mutual assistance, both within nations but also through regional mechanisms, in areas of recovery and reconstruction that include sharing rosters of experts, capacity-building, dissemination of tools and guidelines, the monitoring of progress and post-disaster assessments and recovery planning;

(g) Developing and adopting national and international standards to inform and guide recovery strategies and projects;

(h) Maintaining an institutional continuum between preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation and sustainable development measures, learning from the experiences of countries and sharing the experiences to better inform future recovery and reconstruction planning;

(i) Ensuring consideration of climate change in recovery and reconstruction planning, with the aim of sustainable development, and considering recovery as part of the development agenda to protect economic growth.

Participants committed to promoting the above-mentioned general principles for the effective implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

B. International cooperation in support of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

43. Round table 2, on the theme "International cooperation in support of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction" was opened on 15 March 2015 by the chair, Minister for Home Affairs of India, Rajnath Singh. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Kyrgyzstan, Chile, the Cook Islands, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, Austria, Israel, Fiji, Morocco, Peru, the European Union, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the World Bank Group, the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and by the representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Green Climate Fund and the International Disability Alliance.

44. Reflecting on the development challenges associated with disaster risk, participants underscored the importance of the opportunities that the year 2015 presents, with the intergovernmental processes regarding the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, an agreement on financing for development, the sustainable development goals and a global agreement on climate. Those processes offer an opportunity to build a coherent and strengthened development agenda. Participants highlighted the importance of international cooperation and emphasized the need to enhance and strengthen the resilience of countries with limited capacity and high vulnerability, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, as well as African countries.

45. The opportunities international cooperation offers, such as the exchange of knowledge and information, technology transfer, capacity-building and training, cooperation among national platforms, the application of risk assessments and

cooperation to tackle transboundary disaster risk issues, among other issues, were highlighted.

46. Recognizing the increasing emphasis bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes, as well as private foundation initiatives, now give to disaster risk reduction, participants called for greater coordination among such interventions.

47. The importance of integrating disaster risk considerations into multilateral and bilateral development assistance, including investments from the international financial institutions, the work of the United Nations system and other international organizations was underscored.

48. The emerging architecture of international cooperation through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in addition to bilateral cooperation, was raised by many participants. Expanding the array of new and innovative tools to support cooperation was also mentioned. The role of the private sector was emphasized.

49. Participants called for enhanced investment and financing mechanisms to support resilient development, particularly in the light of the challenges associated with increasing disaster risk and the impact of climate change.

50. Countries underscored the need for the United Nations system to ensure greater coordination among the funds, programmes, offices and specialized agencies in order to achieve greater coherence, effective implementation and to reduce transactions costs as they relate to development programming.

51. While there are undoubtedly new opportunities, the importance of working within existing mechanisms to mainstream disaster risk reduction, such as through ministries of finance and planning, was noted. Participants agreed that disaster risk reduction is an asset to development and must be part of the broader international cooperation discourse.

C. Governing disaster risk: overcoming challenges

52. Round table 3, on the theme "Governing disaster risk: overcoming challenges" was opened on 16 March 2015 by the chair, Minister Secretary for Risk Management of Ecuador, María del Pilar Cornejo. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nauru, the United Arab Emirates, Uganda, Ghana, Spain, Botswana, Mongolia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, the State of Palestine, the Philippines, Tajikistan, the Sudan, Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, the Holy See, the United States, Fiji, Timor-Leste and New Caledonia, as well as by the Governorship of Istanbul, the African Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Duryog Nivaran (a civil society organization), the Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning and the representatives of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations Development Programme.

53. Governing disaster risk at the national and local levels has become a priority in view of the escalating impact of disasters linked to the exacerbating effects of climate change, increased urbanization and accelerated demographic population growth. Many efforts have been made by Governments in establishing or strengthening relevant institutional mechanisms, including national platforms for

disaster risk reduction in conjunction with the development or review of national legislation and policy reforms in support of disaster risk governance.

54. Strong emphasis was placed on integrating disaster risk reduction and addressing climate change so as to bring coherence to and harmonize the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the sustainable development goals and the climate change agenda. This integration process is even more necessary to consolidate the outcomes in view of the adoption of the sustainable development goals in September 2015 and the discussions to be held at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in December 2015, and the process should take place at the national and global levels.

55. There was concern about corruption in procurement during disasters. In relation to this, the importance of transparency as a component of governing disaster risk was stressed as relevant.

56. The following elements were highlighted as means to improve governing of disaster risk:

(a) Decentralization of disaster risk reduction down to the district or village level was seen as crucial for building effective self-protection and resilient communities. Empowering local authorities and communities through capacity-building, including training and peer reviews, should be a core element of the new approach. The role of families as one of the principal sources of resilience and behavioural change, also for persons with disabilities, was highlighted, remembering that at the local level, the people themselves are the first responders and the first ones to work on recovery.

(b) Both a strong political will and budget allocation are required to improve disaster risk governance. Addressing the root causes of disasters, in particular through poverty alleviation, urban development, effective land-use planning with attention to risks posed by slums and with appropriate management of environmental degradation and natural resources should be the starting point of any disaster risk governance strategy.

(c) Promoting a multi-stakeholder approach, in particular with the involvement of the private sector and civil society, children and youth, as well as local authorities. Governing disaster risk is everybody's business. Nobody should be left behind. Women's empowerment is indispensable. A stronger involvement of the private sector in disaster risk reduction, as well as in climate change adaptation strategies, is required.

(d) Transboundary cooperation is crucial for the reduction of hydrometeorological risks, in particular floods and the impact of climate change. Mitigating nuclear disasters, the development of early warning systems and a review of vulnerability maps and building codes are also areas requiring enhanced transboundary cooperation efforts. Disaggregated data collection, with easy access to information and the development of databases across countries, remains a priority in this context.

(e) Education and building a global culture of resilience were highlighted as core elements for understanding risk and achieving behavioural change in support of disaster risk governance, starting at the school level with the integration of disaster

risk reduction as part of school curricula, the recognition of traditional knowledge and solidarity, as well as through awareness-raising campaigns aimed at the general public. Also relevant is capacity-building for public servants in disaster risk reduction, not only for prevention but also for the recovery period.

D. Reducing disaster risk in urban settings

57. Round table 4, on the theme "Reducing disaster risk in urban settings" was opened on 16 March 2015 by the chair, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of South Africa, Pravin Gordhan. Statements were made by the representatives of Uganda, Trinidad and Tobago, Senegal, Germany, Portugal, Poland, Ghana, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Panama, the Niger, Madagascar, Romania, Indonesia, Mozambique, the Gambia, Italy, Peru, Egypt, Zambia, Brazil, Guatemala, Canada, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Ecuador, Nepal, China, Colombia and Norway, as well as the Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Japan and representatives of the city of Aqaba, Jordan, of the University of Brasilia, of the European Parliament, of the International Organization for Migration, of the World Bank Group and of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

58. Participants highlighted the multitude of challenges in addressing urban risk, many of which are exacerbated by a changing climate and the rapid pace of urbanization. Noting that most urbanization will take place in developing countries, across Asia and Africa, participants recognized the additional challenges both national and local governments will face.

59. Participants acknowledged that urbanization and related exposure is growing faster than anticipated. To effectively address such risks, there is a need to further develop and consolidate key actions. The following measures were highlighted as ways to address urban risks through the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction:

(a) National and local governments need to cooperate and establish stronger urban policies to reduce the uneven concentration of economic opportunities and public services. Local governments need the tools and financing to implement risk-informed decisions;

(b) Building codes, standards, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national and local levels need to be revised or established, as appropriate, to ensure applicability in local contexts, particularly in informal settlements. Reinforcing the capacity to implement, survey and enforce codes can directly foster the construction of disaster-resilient structures and sustainable buildings. The use of innovative or traditional techniques was recognized;

(c) Informal settlements, many of which are in high risk areas, should be upgraded based on risk-informed interventions and with the involvement of all sectors, in particular community groups;

(d) Disaster risks need to be periodically reviewed, assessed and communicated to ensure existing, emerging and new sources of risks, vulnerability and exposure are understood. Educating citizens and businesses on risk should be prioritized;

(e) Local government officials' roles and responsibilities should be defined and their capacity strengthened to support their full engagement with stakeholders. Regulatory frameworks provide important guidance to stakeholders;

(f) Land-use policy development and implementation must be informed by disaster risk assessments, risk maps and risk data. Factoring anticipated demographic and environmental change into urban planning is critical to managing future risks;

(g) International and regional cooperation provides an important additional layer of support to local governments. Existing regional centres can be used to enhance collaboration.

60. Participants emphasized the importance of taking a people-centred approach to urban development. The poor and vulnerable suffer the most and face the highest risks and this can only be addressed by reducing inequality.

61. Participants agreed that while legislative frameworks are important, effective implementation remains the paramount challenge. Disaster risk is not a theoretical or abstract concept and must be addressed through practical and targeted measures at the local level.

E. Public investment strategies for disaster risk reduction

62. Round table 5, on the theme "Public investment strategies for disaster risk reduction" was opened on 17 March 2015 by the chair, Secretary of State and Head of the Department of Emergency Situations of Romania, Raed Arafat. Statements were made by the representatives of Tunisia, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Egypt, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Viet Nam, Bahrain, Tajikistan, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania, Panama, the Philippines, Uzbekistan, Cabo Verde and Fiji, as well as the secretariat of the East African Community, the Municipal Council of Nablus, the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), the Association of Caribbean States, the World Meteorological Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, the District Institute of Risk Management and Climate Change of Bogota and Youth Beyond Disasters.

63. Public infrastructure and services are critical for the development and economic solvency of nations and their people. Without them, economic sectors could not function properly and basic services for society and its development would not be available. Consequently, public investment strategies for disaster risk reduction are an indispensable building block for reducing the human, economic and environmental losses caused by disasters.

64. Participants recognized that trillions of dollars would be invested over the next decades in infrastructure and services around the world. There is, therefore, a great opportunity to ensure a prospective approach to public investment is adopted by national governments and the private sector in such a way as to minimize the creation of new risks and revert the current trend of increasing economic losses as a result of disasters and human inaction or omission.

65. Participants raised areas where public investments in disaster risk reduction have promoted an integrated approach, including:

(a) Incorporating disaster risk factors into public and private investment as a key strategy to reduce future risks and as an enabling factor of prosperity and sustainable development;

(b) Comprehensive strategies to reduce the fiscal impact of disaster risk and develop adequate financial protection mechanisms;

(c) Robust building codes and norms and risk-sensitive land use policies.

66. However, obstacles preventing or limiting the integration of disaster risk reduction in fiscal planning were also highlighted, including:

(a) The lack of an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and the availability of evidence-based information for decision-making by ministries of economy and finance;

(b) Insufficient resources invested in disaster risk reduction, particularly in developing countries;

(c) Insufficient technical capacities and a lack of appropriate training for public officials dealing with infrastructure projects, including in monitoring and financial tracking.

67. Some initiatives to overcome such obstacles were proposed by participants, including:

(a) Promoting public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction, in order to catalyse investments;

(b) Utilizing probabilistic risk models that facilitate the identification and estimation of potential disaster losses and financial requirements;

(c) Developing early warning systems as effective mechanisms to reduce potential losses and save lives;

(d) Engaging scientific research and development and the use of disaster risk reduction solutions, such as those offered by integrated information networks and the development of new technologies;

(e) Developing procedures and regulations to ensure transparency as well as the effective and efficient use of financial resources;

(f) Promoting an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach, including the participation of community-based organizations and the private sector.

Chapter VIII
High-level multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues

68. In accordance with paragraph 27 of the programme of work of the Conference (A/CONF.224/2), the following co-chairs' summaries are provided.[3]

A. Mobilizing women's leadership in disaster risk reduction

69. Dialogue 1, on the theme "Mobilizing women's leadership in disaster risk reduction", held on 14 March, was co-chaired by a member of the Senate of the Philippines, Loren Legarda, and the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, Sanae Takaichi. The keynote address was delivered by the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe. The dialogue was moderated by a journalist, Riz Khan.

70. Statements were made by the former President of Finland, Tarja Halonen; the Mayor of Sendai, Emiko Okuyama; the European Commission Vice-President for Budget and Human Resources, Kristalina Georgieva; the Executive Director of the World Food Programme; the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund; and the representative of FemLINKPacific, Adi Vasulevu Merewalesi.

71. During the interactive discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Maldives, the United Kingdom and Benin and by the commune of Tevragh-Zeina in Mauritania. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Bank, the Global Environment Fund, the Global Water Partnership, the women's major group, the indigenous peoples major group and civil society actors from Peru and Indonesia.

72. Participants saw the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the process towards developing a new framework for disaster risk reduction as a key opportunity to highlight the essential role of women in reducing risk and building resilience. Participants called for the outcomes of Sendai to become a turning point by recognizing women's indispensable role in disaster preparedness, management, response and recovery.

73. Numerous examples were shared by participants illustrating how women at every level play a constructive and productive role in disaster risk reduction, both historically and in the current context. Women and girls possess skills and capacity to build resilience and prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. Examples ranged from grass-roots actions, awareness-raising and early warning, to city planning and firefighting, as well as adopting gender markers in international financing for emergencies and providing resources to promote the issue and facilitate the engagement and leadership of women in disaster risk reduction efforts.

74. Participants called for actions that ensure governments scale up the degree and scope of engagement of women in building resilience at the national and local levels, with accountability mechanisms and indicators to track progress. Women should not only be educated and informed, but they also need to be empowered and heard, and opportunities should be provided to them to share the knowledge and

[3] Please see para. 112 of the present report.

vision they have to reduce disaster risks. Education, equal access to training, capacity-building and information are critical to strengthen the engagement and participation of women in disaster risk reduction, including in the areas of science and technology and innovation.

75. Participants acknowledged that the Hyogo Framework for Action, over the past 10 years, had facilitated the promotion of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction. However, much remains to be done to translate words into action. The global disaster risk reduction and development community need to further advance this agenda and bring gender equality and women's empowerment to the core of risk-sensitive development. Mobilizing women's leadership in disaster risk reduction requires dedicated, sustained and targeted actions. Both long-term efforts to break down barriers, such as gender inequality and discrimination against women, which systematically hinder women's equal participation and leadership, and efforts to increase women's opportunities, resources and capacities to engage in disaster risk reduction and overcome these barriers, should be made.

76. Accountability needs to be strengthened through monitoring progress with clear indicators in implementing Sendai outcomes in a gender-responsive manner with linkages to international frameworks, agreements and commitments related to gender equality and disaster risk reduction, for example, through reporting under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, and in related resolutions, as well as in implementing the Beijing agenda for global action on gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction, among other agreements.

77. It is equally important for all actors to ensure gender analysis is a core component in development and disaster risk reduction planning and programming. Using data disaggregated by sex and age and gender analysis is an essential planning tool for developing local and national development and risk reduction plans. Taking measures to address women's sexual and reproductive needs and to prevent gender-based violence, including human trafficking, in the event of disasters, when women are found to be at higher risk of victimization, is necessary and the United Nations is committed to continue working in such areas.

78. Strengthening women's leadership in disaster risk reduction requires addressing the issue of resources, including gender budgeting, in disaster risk reduction, the issue of representation at all levels, in all sectors and in all aspects of risk reduction analysis, planning and implementation, and finally the fundamental issue of rights to ensure that women's rights are respected. Inequality itself is a risk factor undermining disaster risk reduction. Participants strongly emphasized the need to depart from traditional stereotyping of women as incapable and vulnerable.

79. Participants voiced commitments to support the empowerment of women, to be inclusive and engage men and women in actions, to develop the capacity and knowledge of women and girls, to support, engage and provide resources to women and grass-roots leaders, to invest in order to increase the availability of data disaggregated by sex and age, to prevent gender-based violence and to ensure that disaster risk management investments are 100 per cent gender-sensitive.

80. Participants reaffirmed that investment in empowering women and strengthening their leadership role at the frontline in disaster risk reduction is

critical for the resilience of the community at large and will benefit everyone, men and women. Resilient women will lead to resilient nations and communities.

B. Risk-sensitive investment: public-private partnerships

81. Dialogue 2, on the theme "Risk-sensitive investment: public-private partnerships", held on 16 March, was opened by the chair of the dialogue and Director General of the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Turkey, Fuat Oktay, who made a statement. A keynote address was delivered by the Chief Executive Officer of General Insurance, AXA Asia, Gaëlle Olivier. The dialogue was moderated by a journalist, David Eades.

82. The following panellists also made statements: the Special Envoy for International Water Affairs of the Netherlands, Henk Ovink; the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Kokusai Kogyo and Chair of the Private Sector Advisory Group and the Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Partnership of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sandra Wu; the Representative Director and Vice-Chair of Nissan Motor Corporation, Toshiyuki Shiga; the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.

83. An interactive discussion ensued, during which questions were raised and statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Swaziland and Zambia.

84. Statements were also made by representatives of the following major groups: business and industry, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and women.

85. Discussions pointed to the need for close cooperation and building of trust between the private sector and government bodies throughout development planning and disaster management cycles at the national and local levels. Successful disaster risk reduction relies on new partnerships between business and governments to become a driving force for sustainable development. The solutions exist and they are not as costly as the losses incurred by recurring disasters.

86. A range of good practice examples were discussed in which close collaboration between the private and public sectors has contributed to a better understanding of disaster risk, open data and information-sharing, and more effective implementation of regulation and voluntary standards. Despite these good examples, however, there is still hesitation by some governments to embrace close cooperation with the private sector, owing to questions concerning the motives of that sector.

87. Participants agreed that trust was a prerequisite for effective public-private partnerships and could only be gained by bringing different actors together early on in the process of investment and development planning, particularly at the local level. Private sector participants made pleas to governments to bring the private sector into the process from the very start so that they could contribute to building a positive cycle of reinforcement for resilience.

88. Participants finally noted the need to develop resilient solutions across industries in support of social and economic development that is inclusive and engages various stakeholders, such as women and persons with disability. To

achieve this, specific groups need to be offered specific solutions that are developed with them, not for them, summed up in the idea that bridging the gap between public and private also means bridging the gap between institutions and the people.

89. Some specific proposals and commitments were made by participants. The Chair of the Private Sector Partnership of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction confirmed that the 96 members of the partnership are committed to making their risk management expertise available to local and national governments to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. She further reinforced the commitment of all members to employ the tools developed within the Private Sector Partnership and to engage closely with the United Nations system and other organizations and bodies at the international level.

90. The Netherlands proposed to continue the discussion in a high-level format at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, specifically on effective mechanisms for public-private cooperation in concrete project implementation and financing terms.

91. Specific statements of support and new commitments to engage in disaster risk reduction through the R!SE Initiative were made by several panellists. Private sector participants expressed their commitment to provide expertise and technology to risk reduction and disaster management efforts of the public sector in support of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

C. Inclusive disaster risk management: governments, communities and groups acting together

92. Dialogue 3, on the theme "Inclusive disaster-risk management: governments, communities and groups acting together" was opened by the chair of the dialogue and Minister of Local Government and Community Development of Jamaica, Noel Arscott, who made a statement. A keynote address was delivered by the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kiribati, Anote Tong. The dialogue was moderated by a representative of Al-Jazeera, Veronica Pedrosa, who also made a statement.

93. Statements were made by the Minister of Urban Development and Informal Settlements of Egypt, Laila Iskander; the Mayor of Tevragh-Zeina, Mauritania, Fatimetou Abdel Malick; the President of the province of Potenza, Italy, Nicola Valluzzi; the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund; a representative of ONG Inclusiva, Carlos Kaiser Mansilla; and a representative of DAMPA, a civil society organization from the Philippines, Josephine Basibas Castillo.

94. An interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Maldives, Mexico, New Caledonia (as an associate member), Egypt, Japan, South Africa, Nepal, the Philippines and Ecuador.

95. Statements were made by the representatives of the following entities of the United Nations system: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Bank.

96. Statements were made by the representatives of the following civil society organizations: World Federation of the Deaf, Global Networking of Civil Society

Organizations for Disaster Reduction, International Association of Applied Psychology and Global Water Partnership. Statements were also made by representatives of the following major groups: women and business and industry.

97. It is essential to understand individual perspectives on inclusiveness and resilience. No one should be left behind. For many people in the Pacific islands and other small island developing States, for instance, inclusiveness means addressing disaster and climate change risks in an integrated manner. For many disaster survivors, it is about the "build back better" approach, even after many years of disasters. For people with disabilities, inclusiveness is about taking away the invisibility and getting them involved in the decision-making processes. Progress has been achieved through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework in this respect, but a lot remains to be done.

98. The discussion highlighted that inclusiveness requires a true spirit of solidarity. Inclusiveness will only become a reality when the needs of different groups and individuals are genuinely taken into account, regardless of their background, conditions, attitudes and beliefs.

99. The specific and differentiated needs of groups that are disproportionately affected by disasters, such as the poor, children, women, persons with disabilities, refugees and others must be clearly addressed if safety, security and dignity are to be ensured. Disaggregated statistics, data and information are crucial to understand the needs of different groups.

100. Communities, with their unique knowledge and capacities must be engaged, not only as implementers, but also in the planning, monitoring and decision-making stages. Where communities work with local and national governments and other actors, faster and better recovery has been observed in the aftermath of disasters. There are success stories of child-centred disaster risk management, which can be scaled up. Grass-roots women's organizations that work for the benefit of their community, also benefit government policies and programmes.

101. Where the political will of national and local governments translates into policies, institutional arrangements and collaborative partnerships involving academia, the private sector, the media and others, a meaningful participation of communities and vulnerable groups has been observed.

102. All of the above examples point to some common critical success factors of inclusive disaster risk management: (a) the acknowledgement of the needs, but also unique and complementary added value of all stakeholders; (b) strong political commitment resulting in policies and programmes that incorporate the perspectives and priorities of vulnerable groups and foster their leadership in disaster risk management; and (c) innovative partnerships that build the capacity of communities and support their initiatives, as well as learning and knowledge sharing.

103. Inclusiveness requires each individual and organization to think beyond their individual mandate and responsibilities to work together.

104. Participants welcomed the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction for its inclusive approach, recognizing that disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. It is important that the richness and authenticity of this dialogue be reflected into the framework and translated into concrete action and implementation. The latest communications

technology available, including social media, should be used to keep the dialogue alive and to build on existing momentum.

105. The following opportunities and commitments for actions were presented during the dialogue:

(a) Enhance the engagement of communities. Addressing the needs of communities has proved effective both before disasters and during their aftermath, where there is a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities and acknowledgement of people's experience;

(b) Strengthen institutions and partnerships that recognize the capacities and contribution of all stakeholders and ensure their meaningful engagement;

(c) Develop technical standards to effectively engage people with disabilities. Networks are committed to work together to develop such standards, for which support from the private sector and other organizations is also required;

(d) Strengthen the role of the media. As an immediate step, media stakeholders announced their willingness to launch global warning and disaster risk reduction communication campaigns to prepare the media to communicate more effectively on disaster risk reduction;

(e) Ensure that data collected by the scientific and academic communities is usable. Data must not only be collected from communities but must also be made relevant, useful and accessible for those communities;

(f) Engage the private sector through initiatives such as developing integrated information systems and business continuity planning.

Chapter IX
Report of the Credentials Committee

106. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 18 March, the Conference considered the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.224/4) as introduced by the Chair of the Committee. The Conference was informed that since the formal meeting of the Committee, credentials in due form had been received from Jamaica.

107. The Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in its report, taking into account the update provided (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 5).

Chapter X

Adoption of the final outcomes of the Conference

108. The Conference, at its 9th plenary meeting, decided to waive the relevant provision of rule 29 of the rules of procedure to facilitate consideration of the draft resolutions (A/CONF.224/L.1, A/CONF.224/L.2 and A/CONF.224/L.3) before it.

109. At its 9th plenary meeting, the Conference, acting on the recommendation of the Main Committee, adopted the draft resolution (A/CONF.224/L.2), entitled "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" (for the text, see resolution 1 in chap. I of the present report).

110. At the same plenary meeting, the Conference adopted, on the recommendation of the Main Committee, the draft resolution (A/CONF.224/L.1), entitled "Sendai Declaration" (for the text, see resolution 2 in chap. I of the present report).

111. At the same plenary meeting, the Conference adopted, also on the recommendation of the Main Committee, the draft resolution (A/CONF.224/L.3), entitled "Stakeholders' voluntary commitments" (for the text, see resolution 3 in chap. I of the present report).

Chapter XI
Other matters

112. At the 9th plenary meeting, the President informed the Conference that, in accordance with the programme of work of the Conference (A/CONF.224/2), the chairs' written summaries of the five ministerial round tables and three high-level multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues would be included in the final report of the Conference (for the summaries, see chapters VII and VIII of the present report).

113. A statement was made by the Minister Secretary for Risk Management of Ecuador, Maria del Pilar Cornejo.

Chapter XII
Adoption of the report of the Conference

114. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 18 March, the Conference adopted its draft report, as introduced by the Rapporteur-General, and authorized the Rapporteur-General to finalize it.

Chapter XIII
Closure of the Conference

115. At the 9th plenary meeting, the Conference adopted by acclamation an expression of gratitude (A/CONF.224/L.4), submitted by South Africa on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China (for the text, see resolution 4 in chap. I of the present report).

116. Also at the 9th plenary meeting, closing statements were made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, and the President of the Conference, Eriko Yamatani.

117. Also at the same meeting, the President declared closed the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Annex

List of documents

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
A/CONF.224/1/Rev.1	4	Provisional agenda
A/CONF.224/2	4	Provisional programme of work
A/CONF.224/2/Add.1	4	Addendum to the provisional programme of work
A/CONF.224/3	5	Provisional rules of procedure
A/CONF.224/4	7 (b)	Report of the Credentials Committee
A/CONF.224/5	11	Explanation of position by the representative of United States of America
A/CONF.224/6	13	Report of the Conference
A/CONF.224/L.1	11	Sendai Declaration
A/CONF.224/L.2	11	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
A/CONF.224/L.3	11	Stakeholders' voluntary commitments
A/CONF.224/L.4	12	Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Japan
A/CONF.224/L.5	13	Draft report of the Conference
A/CONF.224/INF/1		Information note for participants
A/CONF.224/INF/2		Assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action
A/CONF.224/INF/3		Voluntary commitments for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction
A/CONF.224/INF/4		List of delegations

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